

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device for a welding wire, wherein a wire buffer, in particular a wire buffer storage, is arranged between a wire feeder provided on the welding apparatus, or an external wire feeding means, and a further wire feeder preferably arranged in the region of a welding torch, or within the welding torch, and the welding wire is conducted between the two wire feeders within a wire core, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is designed in a manner that the wire core (30) is fastened or fixed on one end, with its other end being freely movable, ~~and that wherein~~ wherein the wire core (30) together with the welding wire (13), at least over a partial region, is arranged to be freely movable within a wire guide hose (38) having a substantially larger cross section (39) or inner diameter than the cross section or outer diameter (33) of the wire core (30), and ~~that~~ wherein the storage volume of the wire buffer storage (35) is defined by the cross section (39) and length of the substantially larger wire guide hose (38).

2. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire core (30) is fastened or fixed in the region of the welding apparatus (1) or external wire feeding means (11).

3. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the inner diameter or cross section (39) of the wire guide hose (38) is at least 1.5 times larger than an outer diameter (33) of the wire core (30).

4. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged within a hose package (23).

5. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) extends in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner within said hose package (23).

6. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein further lines arranged within the hose package (23) are arranged within the helically or spirally extending wire guide hose (38).

7. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged outside a hose package (23).

8. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged around the hose package (23) in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner.

9. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged to helically or spirally extend about a carrier material independently of the hose package (23).

10. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein means for detecting the filling level or quantity of welding wire (13) of

the wire buffer storage (35) are arranged, said detection means detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core (30) and, in particular, the free end of the wire core (30).

11. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is comprised of a structural unit comprising the wire guide hose (38), on which a terminal element, particularly a quick lock (49, 50) is arranged on either end, and the wire core (30).

12. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is exchangeable without requiring any tool.

13. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to ~~claim 11 or 12, characterized in that~~ wherein a guide element (57) of the terminal element, particularly quick lock (49, 50), projects into a sensor (51) for detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core (30).

14. (Currently Amended)

A buffer device according to claim 1, ~~one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the wire guide hose (38) is preformed in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner.

15. (Currently Amended)

A welding plant including a welding apparatus, a hose package and a welding torch, wherein the hose package connects the welding torch with the welding apparatus, and a device designed as a wire buffer storage and arranged between two wire feeders, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said device or wire buffer storage (35) is formed in or around the hose package (23).

16. (CANCELED)

17. (NEW)

A welding plant including a welding apparatus, a hose package and a welding torch, wherein the hose package connects the welding torch with the welding apparatus, and a device designed as a wire buffer storage and arranged between two wire feeders, wherein said device or wire buffer storage (35) is formed in or around the hose package (23) and is designed according to claim 1.